

Literacy

We will start the term focussing on poetry and, later, informative writing in our literacy sessions. We will look at the audience and purpose for both genres of writing and get the children to deconstruct examples of each style identifying the language features. The children will then plan and write their own examples of the genre in question.

In reading children will work on developing a deeper understanding in their reading. They will choose novels to read and engage in activities based around these. They will also be expected to do personal reading as part of their home learning.

An important change that will happen in Senior School literacy this year will affect children who usually undertake the STEPs to Literacy programme in Te Whare Poi Poi. They will continue with this programme of study combined with a literacy learning programme in Room 22 with Anna, supported by teacher aides Anna and Justine.

Children based in Room 22 who are not involved in the STEPs programme will learn literacy within the other senior classes.

PE, Health and Sport

This term our PE programme is "Adventure Based Learning" and includes a range of games and activities designed to develop teamwork, problem solving, and co-operative skills. Later in the term we will be working on developing ball skills through a variety of different sports.

Westmere offers your children many opportunities to participate and compete in a wide range of sports...and the list is still growing! The overall success of our school sport programme relies on the generous and vital support of parents. If you would like to help with sports organisation, coaching or whatever for **any** sport please contact Terry.

- Westmere is again boasting a strong representation at the Weetbix triathlon in St Heliers at the end of February
- Practices for our interschool cricket and softball teams begin shortly – please contact Kris or Nicki if you are able to help coach any of these teams
- Organisation of school Netball, Basketball, and Flippaball teams takes place this term, in preparation for their Term 2 competitions
- The Westmere Fun Run Club operates every Wednesday morning at 8.00am for any Year3-6 students interested in running for fitness and health and of course FUN!
- During lunchtimes, we also offer a range of different sporting opportunities for any students to have a go at.

Interschool Sports Selection

Our selection procedure for Interschool teams can vary between sports. Priority is given to Y6 students and is gender inclusive. Opportunities may be presented to Y5s if vacancies in teams occur. Individual sports such as swimming or athletics are governed by the qualifying criteria set down by the Inner City Schools cluster. Our full selection procedure document is available from Terry or Kris, or feel free to come and see us if you have any questions relating to interschool events.

Confirmed sports dates to note (so far)

Feb 24th Weetbix Try, St Heliers (entries closed)

Feb 28th Interschool Triathlon, Pt Erin

March 7th Interschool Cricket, Victoria Park (rain date March 14th)

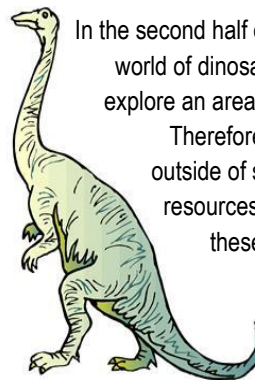
March 28th Interschool Softball, Cox's Bay Park (rain date April 4th)

Late Term 1 Senior School swimming sports (date TBC)

Topic

At the beginning of a new school year our focus is on creating a supportive and positive learning environment for everyone. Our topic for the start of term is "Living and Learning together". This involves participating in a wide range of activities which encourage the children to think about themselves as learners. We also look at how to deal with challenging and stressful situations by being resilient and using positive "I statements" to deal with conflict.

As part of creating a safe and inclusive learning environment, we are also incorporating a series of lessons on cyber safety. We are particularly focusing on responsible digital citizenship in the context of social media. Please don't hesitate to ask your child's teacher if you have any questions about this. We will keep our wiki updated with relevant links regarding this.



In the second half of the term we will be exploring the exciting world of dinosaurs. The children will have opportunities to explore an area of this topic that particularly interests them

Therefore they might need to gather resources from outside of school (home, library, etc.). If you have any resources/expertise that would enrich our learning in these areas that you are happy to share with us we would really appreciate it.

Year book

Each year, a small group of mainly Y6 senior students work together to produce a yearbook which the Year 6s receive at the end of the year. We need parents to help with this year's book, overseeing the planning and writing. It would be great to have someone (or more than one person) who is able to come in once a week to work with the group. We also need help with photography and graphics. If you are able to help at all with this or have any questions about what this would entail, please contact Deborah.

Maths

This term we have decided to trial a new maths programme grouping the children across the senior school classes. We have used recent tests together with last year's data to group children. This will enable us to teach programmes targeted more specifically to childrens' needs.

The focus for this term will be number knowledge and probability. Homework will be set by your child's maths teacher, please support your child with this.

Your child will have homework each week. Spelling, math and reading are the compulsory components of homework. There will be additional projects sent home that are optional. Our homework policy and project sheets are on our team wiki and your child will also have copies of these in their homework book. This term, we are trialling a choice-based program for the project work. The children will have 4 tasks to choose from. They can then choose two of the projects to complete over the course of the term.

Senior School Newsletter

Term 1 2013

Contact Details

To email teachers add
@westmere.school.nz to the
first initial and last name
listed below.

e.g.
ttara@westmere.school.nz

Jane / Wai Tahi: jcooper
Toru / Wai Rua : ttara
Shane / Rm 16: sgault
Deborah / Rm 17: djones
Terry / Rm 19: trobinson
Anna / Rm 22: aspeak
Nicki / Rm 25: nford
Kris / Rm 31: kpinnock

Tracey Taylor will be
relieving teachers in our
team each Wednesday

Important Dates

Friday 22nd February
Westmere welcome
picnic



Hi, I'm Shane, and I have the pleasure of working with the kids in Room 16. I have been teaching for 12 years. However, my most recent role has been at home as a 'domestic executive', looking after the eldest of our two boys. With the arrival of number two, now 4 weeks old, it has been a fairly invigorating reintroduction to the classroom! Prior to being at home, I spent 3 years working in the Senior School at King's in Remuera. Home was Wellington until 5 years ago; the move North facilitated by a change in my wife's work. So, although I will thoroughly appreciate any offers of Blues tickets, my blood still runs Hurricanes black and yellow!

HELP NEEDED

We welcome and need
parental involvement to run
quality programmes and will
be asking for help
throughout the year.
Each Wednesday afternoon a
group of parents meet in the
meeting room beside Room
25 and have a working bee,
making resources etc to
support teaching & learning
in the senior school. As
teachers we really
appreciate this support and
welcome anyone able to
contribute whether as a one
off or on a regular basis.



**Ko te manu i kai te miro (*the bird who eats berries*)
Nona te ngahere(*owns the forest*)
Ko te manu i kai te matauranga(*the bird who eats wisdom*)
Nona te ao(*owns the world*)**

**E nga Iwi, E nga Reo, E nga Mana
Tena koutou, Tena koutou, Tena koutou katoa**

**Tena koutou e te whanau o Westmere School
Nau mai, Haere mai**

Welcome to the senior school, Te Kura Mahiri. We extend a special welcome to the new students and their families to our school.

During their time in the senior school, your child will take on responsibility, develop greater independence and be encouraged to take on new challenges - academically, socially and physically.

There are many extra opportunities offered to children in Year 5 & 6 in sports and performing arts and we encourage student to make the most of these and step outside their comfort zone.

We see the education of your child as a partnership between you and the school. Please keep us informed of any issues, concerns or celebrations regarding your child.

We also welcome to our school and team Shane, in R16:

Last year the whanau of Nga Uri O Nga Iwi established a new direction for the unit with the establishment of a full immersion Maori class alongside a bilingual one, each class comprising year 3 to 6 students. Parents could choose which educational pathway they wanted their child to pursue. The two classes have been named after the local waterways which feature in the unit's pepeha, namely Waititiko (Meola Creek) and Waiateao (Motions creek). Whaea Jane teaches in Wai1 and Whaea Toru in Wai2. Students in both classes will be joining the senior school each morning for PE and Y5/6 will be cross grouped for maths. In week 5 however NUONI are away in Te Kaha for our annual noho a-marae, a very special event this year as we will be taking Nana Ma back to her turangawaewae.

Sun Smart

It is compulsory for all students to wear bucket hats when outside during terms 1 & 4. Please provide your child with sunscreen they can keep in their bag. Shoe-string tops and very short shorts do not offer good sun protection; please ensure your child has clothing that will keep them safe in the sun.

